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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,316	07/01/2004	Chris Irgens	27475/05367	4315
24024	7590	12/14/2006	EXAMINER	
CALFEE HALTER & GRISWOLD, LLP 800 SUPERIOR AVENUE SUITE 1400 CLEVELAND, OH 44114			GALL, LLOYD A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,316

Applicant(s)

IRGENS ET AL.

Examiner

Lloyd A. Gall

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 17 and 19-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 July 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of figures 8A-8D in the reply filed on September 29, 2006 is acknowledged. Applicant should also note that new claims 25-32 are not regarded as reading on the elected figures 8A-8D, and are withdrawn from consideration. In particular the limitations of claim 25, lines 4-6 are not drawn to the figures 8A-8D embodiment. Further, it is not clear where the original specification provides support for new claim 30.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In amended paragraph [0022], line 1, a double occurrence of "a" is present. In amended paragraph [0026], line 6, "[[85]]s" is unclear.

Appropriate correction is required.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "external groove" of claim 6, line 2 and claim 19, line 2 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet,

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and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 6 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The "external groove" at the key insertion of the lock housing as claimed in claim 6, line 2 and claim 19, line 2 cannot be located in the original specification, as filed.

Claims 1, 17 and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, line 4, --shaft-- should be inserted after the last occurrence of "said". In claim 17, line 4, --shaft-- should be inserted after the last occurrence of "said". In claim 17, line 6, the second occurrence of "a" should be replaced with --the-- or --said--. In claim

21, lines 2-3, there is no antecedent basis for "said lock housing". Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 17 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al (031) in view of Li (915).

It is first noted that a receiver and an object are not being positively claimed. As seen in figs. 12-17, Wilson et al teaches a receiver lock including a linear shaft 123, 121, a first end of the shaft 123 received within a locking head 122, a second end of the shaft including a stop member 121 or 26 or 124 having an increased diameter with respect to the first end of the shaft 123 as seen in fig. 12, a key insertion end opposite the shaft insertion end of the lock head 122, a locking mechanism 130 to engage the shaft within the lock head 122, a compressible (column 6, line 19) protective covering 134 on the shaft insertion end of the lock head and including a hole to receive the first end of the shaft, wherein the protective covering 134 has the same diameter as the cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the lock head. With respect to claim 21, Wilson also teaches a shaft protective cover 24 over the shaft 121 between the lock head 122 and the second end 26 or 125, 126 of the shaft. Wilson does not teach the covering 134 being mounted so as to partially enclose an axial length of the lock head. As seen in fig. 5, Li teaches a covering member 231 as being mounted to partially enclose an axial length

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(222) of the lock head 22. It would have been obvious to mount the covering 134 of Wilson to enclose an axial length of the lock head, in view of the teaching of Li, the motivation being to optimize the strength of its connection to the lock head.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al in view of Li as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Signorelli et al (279). In column 10, lines 53-54, Signorelli teaches a washer 49 formed of an elastomeric material. It would have been obvious to modify the compressible covering of Wilson such that it is formed of elastomeric material, in view of the teaching of Signorelli, the motivation being to optimize its sealing capabilities.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al in view of Li as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bailey (771) or Gilbertson et al (601).

Bailey teaches a bent handlebar 28 in fig. 1. Gilbertson teaches a shaft with a bent end 112 in fig. 8. It would have been obvious to utilize a bent handlebar with the handlebar 24 of Wilson et al, which functions as the stop member in fig. 12 of Wilson, in view of the teaching of Bailey, the motivation being to simplify steering of the bicycle.

Alternatively, it would have been obvious to substitute a bent end shaft for the shaft end stop member 121 of fig. 13 of Wilson, in view of the teaching of Gilbertson et al, the motivation being to utilize the lock of Wilson as a trailer lock, as taught by Gilbertson et al.

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Claims 6 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al in view of Li as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Li (000).

As seen in fig. 6, Li (000) teaches a protective cap 252 at the key insertion end of the lock head 21 attachable by an external groove in the lock head. It would have been obvious to mount a protective cap over the key insertion end of the lock head of Wilson et al through the use of an external groove in the lock head, in view of the teaching of Li (000), the motivation being to seal the key slot of the lock head against dust or water, as is well known in the lock art.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al in view of Li as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Wyers (832).

Wyers teaches a seal 66 at the shaft insertion end of the lock head. It would have been obvious to modify the covering 134 of Wilson et al such that it functions as a seal, in view of the teaching of Wyers, the motivation being to protect the interior components of the lock head against dust and water, as is well known in the lock art.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 8, 17 and 19-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

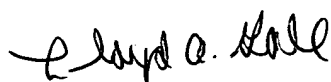
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 571-272-7056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LG LG
December 6, 2006


Lloyd A. Gall
Primary Examiner